

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 MC-02 /066 W

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R 031432Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7505

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS FORCES FOR NATO

REF: STATE 15521, DTG 220222Z JAN 76

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, MAAG HAS DEVELOPED FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. RNLA CURRENTLY HAS ON HAND 7,400 TOW MISSILES, 1,400 MORE ARE ON ORDER FOR SHIPMENT FROM CONUS, FOR A TOTAL OF 8,800 ROUNDS.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO 4,400 FIGURE IN PARA 1 REFTEL, THIS IS TARGET FIGURE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. RNLA IS STILL CONSIDERING POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF EITHER THE FRENCH MILAN OR THE US ARMY'S DRAGON. DECISION ON POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF MILAN OR DRAGON WILL AFFECT NUMBER OF TOW LAUNCHERS. THE 19,300 ROUNDS IN PARA 1 REFTEL ARE PLANNING FIGURES FOR THE 1980'S.

4. ARMY MAAG HAS FURNISHED RNLA ALL INFORMATION ON PROPER MIX OF TOW LAUNCHERS/ MISSILES. CURRENT TREND OF RNLA THINKING IS TO MOUNT TOW UNDER ARMOR FOR THE ARMOR/INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES. DECISION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO THE UNACCEPTABLE PRICE QUOTED BY FMC/SAN JOSE AND HUGHES AIRCRAFT.

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MOUNTING UNDER ARMOR WILL GIVE A BETTER TOW/MISSIEL RATIO. IN

THIS RESPECT, DUTCH ARE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN ANY US ARMY CONTRACT THAT WOULD PLACE TOW UNDER ARMOR, SINCE THIS MIGHT BRING PRICE DOWN TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

5. PRESENTLY, RNLA HAS ON HAND 134 TOW LAUNCHERS FROM US, WITH 25 MORE TO BE DELIVERED. OF THIS TOTAL, 138 WILL BE DEPLOYED. THIS WILL PRODUCE A RATION OF 64 TOW MISSILES PER LAUNCH TUBE. WE HAVE FURNISHED DUTCH WITH LATEST US ARMY TOW/LAUNCHER MIX OF 20 TO 1.

6. DUTCH ARE NOW STUDYING SUPPLY FLOATS, BASIC LOADS AND INVENTORY QUESTIONS. THEY ARE PLANNING TO PLACE TOW MISSILE ON THEIR NEW B0105 HELICOPTERS. DECISION ON THIS WILL BE MADE EARLY THIS YEAR.  
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